



Stage Seven – From High St to Salthouse Lane



This stage of the walk starts facing **Ye Olde Black Boy** Pub, on the east side of High Street and finishes at Salthouse Lane, taking in the old river wharf and ‘Little’ High Street.

Ye Olde Black Boy was first licensed in 1729 and is Hull’s oldest surviving pub. It was also one of the favourite haunts of the poet Philip Larkin.

This area has been used in many films (movies) and TV series.

On the right you will come to the arched entrance to **Bond 31 Staith**, built in 1828.



A “staith” or “staithe” is an access for cargo between the quayside from High Street. The merchants who lived on High Street built

their warehouses behind their homes so they had direct access to the River Hull quayside.

Many of the staithes allowed less advantaged traders access down to the river.

Staith can be spelled with or without a final “e” and you will find both spellings used around Hull’s old streets.



Across High Street and next to the Black Boy pub set back is the other entrance to **Burnett Avenue** we mentioned earlier in Stage 6.

This is an example of how in the 19th century commercial properties have developed from the yards and alleyways on this side of High Street.

Further along, on the same side, on the corner of Bishop Lane we have **Dunwell Forge**, a medieval building re-built in the mid 1700’s as a shipsmiths. Much of the original internal structure remains. It’s now a popular vegetarian restaurant.

On the right hand side opposite Dunwell Forge you will come to the former **Pacific Club**. It has a Victorian pillar box in front of it.



The **Pacific Club** (dated 1899) was a meeting place for Hulls corn and seed merchants.

The style is Jacobean revival and there is a wealth of detail to be seen. It has served as a gentleman's club, a centre for folk music and dance and is currently as offices of 'Visit Hull' and HEY Volunteers.

Just passed the Pacific Club and running underneath its bay window, we have **Bishop Lane Staithe**, this shows how a typical staithe entrance would have looked in the mid 18th century.

It has excellent examples of the heavy wrought iron protective plates put up around the 1750s by the property owners, to stop carts from damaging the walls of their buildings as traders manhandled their goods to the quayside. Go on! Give them a tap. Just image who has brushed past here before you.

As you walk on you will pass on the right a row of warehouses from the early 1800s with some of the 2nd and 3rd floor loading bays still intact. They are now student accommodation.

The next staith you come to has a brass plaque to the left of the entrance, it tells us about Crowle House. Please read the information on the plaque and then walk down the Staith.

The gates are usually open but please bear in mind there are residential apartments down here.



As you walk down on the left you will come to the facade of **Crowle House**. In 1664 the wealthy merchant George Crowle and his wife Eleanor decided to give their house a new entrance.

The house was designed to echo the frontage of Wilberforce House. We will see Wilberforce House later in this stage.

Unfortunately, this frontage is all that remains of Crowle House, of one of Hull's oldest domestic dwellings. Please bear in mind that at the time it was built the frontage would not have been down an alley. There would have been a front garden where the warehouses were later built.

Back on High Street on the opposite side you should see the entrance to a narrow alley this is **155 High Street, Salter's Court** named after the 19th Century sloop owner John Salter.

On the same side is another avenue that isn't there any longer. It was originally an L shaped alley that came out in Bishop Lane.

It is now an elaborate commercial property built around 1900.

Next, is **The Sailmaker's Arms**. It was a ships chandler (a merchant for ship supplies such as spare sails) in the 19th century. Originally the courtyard you can see through the gates was an open storage yard.

The building in front is mid-Victorian.

These days it is a popular welcoming pub with an open fire in winter and a sun catching courtyard in summer.



Continuing on and on your side of the street you will come to a rather grand building with a pair of Corinthian columns with the name '**Commercial Museum**' above the entrance.

This was the Corn Exchange designed by Bellamy and Hardy in 1855. We know this because they have conveniently embossed their name and the date across the central rail of the rather fine wrought iron entrance gates.

The building now houses the East Riding Archeological Museum which can be accessed via the Museum Quarter.



Back on the other side of the street is **Maister House**, Hull's only National Trust property.

It was built in 1775 for the wealthy local merchant Henry Maister.

Although quite austere on the outside the inside reveals a delicate wrought iron balustrade to the stairs and gallery with its ornate plasterwork. It is occupied by tenants but the stairs and gallery can be accessed by the public when it's convenient for the tenants. It can also be seen at the 'Hull Open Days' in mid-September.

OK so please carry on walking to the corner and turn right into the Peace Gardens. As you walk on your right you will pass the Hull and East Riding Archaeological Museum which traces the regions pre-history through to the Middle Ages.

At the corner of the grassy area turn left and you will see a rather stylised model of a **Toad**. This is our tribute to **Philip Larkin**, University of Hull librarian and poet. He wrote 2 poems referring to his work at the University as his Toad. The first one 'Toads' in 1954 and then 'Toads Revisited' in 1962.



Behind the Toad, against the wall are 2 statues rescued from the Hull's Royal Institute Museum, Albion Street which was destroyed during our blitz in 1941

On your right is the Streetlife Hull's Transport Museum. Both these museums are well worth a visit and there are free guided tours around these two and Wilberforce House which is our next port of call.

You can find out days and times of the museum tours from a leaflet you can pick up at any of the museums or at the Information Pod in the Paragon Interchange.

Please now walk on and at the corner, turn left around the building until you are back on High Street again.

Once you are there, turn right and walk along the narrow footpath until you reach the entrance to Wilberforce House.

Once there look up and you will see a metal ring suspended between the gate posts. When the house was built, around 1660, this metal ring would carry an oil lamp to guide the family home.

It is thought that most of the merchants along High Street would have had similar set ups.

This would make Hull the first town in the country to have any form of street lighting.



So now please step into the garden of **Wilberforce House** the birthplace of William Wilberforce in 1758. You will recognise the design from Crowle House we saw earlier in this stage.

Wilberforce House was built in the 1660's and was originally the official residence of the Governor of Hull. It was bought by the Wilberforce family in 1730 and it stayed in the family until 1832.

William is Hull's most renowned son He became a Member of Parliament in 1780 and lead a group of MPs to push for the abolition of the slave trade which resulted in the Slave Trade Act in 1807.

This Act was followed by Slavery Abolition Act 1833 which ended slavery in Britain and the British Empire completely.

William died shortly after the 1833 Act had passed through Parliament so it's reasonable to say he fulfilled his life's ambitions.

Wilberforce House is Hull's oldest museum it opened in 1906.



Further down High Street on the left and you will come to a pair of semi-detached **Georgian Houses** which have now been made into a museum. The museum displaying costumes, firearms and Hull silverware from the 17th & 18th centuries as well as clocks made in Hull and the East Riding.

These houses are very unusual in that they are a semi-detached pair which went very much against the Georgian convention and there are only a few existing examples of this layout in the country today. The museum is accessed through Wilberforce House.

Walk past the Georgian Houses and you will come to a long brick wall with a large gap in the middle. This used to be a complete row of elegant Georgian houses but much of them were destroyed during the World War II leaving this wall as a reminder.

The doorway you can see in the wall was the entrance to the home of Joseph Pease a merchant who came to Hull in 1708 and made a significant impact on the then town as a

merchant and industrialist. In 1754 he opened the first bank in Yorkshire in this house. It is thought there were only 12 in the county at the time. He also served as Sheriff and Mayor.

Through a gap in the wall to the right you can see Pease Warehouse built in 1745 and extended in 1760. It has now been converted into apartments with many of the original features still in place.

At the end of the wall you will see a Blue Plaque dedicated to Joseph Pease.

Now walk on until you reach what is Alfred Gelder Street. It was built around 1900 and cut across High Street isolating the northern end of the street (known locally as Little High Street). Alfred Gelder Street was part of the main road network through the city until the Castle Street/A63 development was completed in the 1970's. As you arrive at Alfred Gelder Street look to your right. You will see **Drypool Bridge** a rolling lift bridge opened in 1961 replacing the original bridge which was built in 1888. In 2017 the bridge was repainted in the memory of the mathematician **John Venn**.



It was he who was the developer of the *Venn diagram*, he was born just over the other side of the bridge in Drypool Parish in 1834.

We now cross over Alfred Gelder Street. There is a dropped kerb nearby but no designated crossing point. *Be aware traffic can come from both directions here.*



Walk down the continuation of High Street, on the left hand pavement for about 30 metres. Ahead of you is **Blaydes House** built around 1750 for Benjamin Blaydes, a merchant and shipbuilder. Alongside it is Blaydes Staith (note the difference in spelling). In 1784 his company built a ship called the *Bethia* here on the River Hull. It was later bought by the Royal Navy for £1,950 and renamed *HMS Bounty* and the rest as they say is history.



Up on the roof between the two chimneys you will see a small belvedere or viewing point. Young boys were sent up there to look out for merchant ships sailing up the Humber so that cargoes could be made ready for loading. This meant that the Blaydes merchants could bring a shipment into the quayside at high tide.

They could then offload and reload the ship and send it out again on the same tide.

It is said that the belvedere was built after 3 boys were killed falling off the roof whilst ship spotting.

Appropriately the house is now the University of Hull Maritime Research Centre.

Staying on the same side, pass Blaydes House, Alexandria Wharf and a row of terraced houses and you will come to the **Old Dock Office** built around 1820.



This was the main office for the Hull Dock Company until the new Dock Offices, now the Maritime Museum, was opened in 1871.

The original building had a central triangular pediment on the roof above the door which now looks out of place because of the extension built in 1840.

Walk on past the Old Dock Office and cross over what is now Dock Office Row towards the River Hull.

Watch out for traffic coming from the right.

Dock Office Row is the continuation of Little High Street but does not have a street sign at present.

Looking through the railings and you will see the dock basin for what was Queens Dock, which is now the site of Queens Gardens. Queens Dock basin is now known as Northend Shipyard.

This will be the new site of Hull's historic trawler the *Arctic Corsair* together with a purpose built modern Visitors' Centre. It is due to open in Spring 2027.

Looking up at the north wall of the Old Dock Office you can see why the offices were built where they were. Every ship that entered or left the dock could be watched over by the dock owners.

You may have seen the street called **North Walls** on the left as you came up to the Old Dock Office. This as the name suggests was the northern limit to the medieval town wall.

OK, so now cross back over Dock Office Row and make our way back to Alfred Gelder Street

Just before you get to Alfred Gelder Street you will cross over the entrance to Salthouse Lane.

Once you get to this junction, you'll have reached the end of stage 7 and the beginning of Stage 8

This might be an opportunity to visit the **Street Life Museum**, the **East Riding Museum**, **Wilberforce House** and/or the **Georgian Houses**.

When you are ready to start Stage 8 come back here and off you go. Thank you